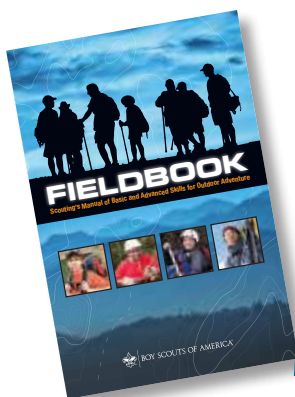


# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# READING



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
MERIT BADGE SERIES

# READING



*"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"*



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

# Requirements

1. Do EACH of the following:
  - a. Learn how to search your library’s card catalog or computerized catalog by author, title, and subject.
  - b. With the assistance of your merit badge counselor or a librarian, select six books that include four different types (such as poetry, drama/plays, fiction, nonfiction, biographies, etc.). Ask your librarian or counselor about award-winning books that are recommended for readers your age and include at least one of those titles.
  - c. Find the books in the library catalog. With your counselor’s or a librarian’s assistance, locate the books on the shelves.
  - d. Read each book. Keep a log of your reading that includes the title of the book, the pages or chapters read, the date you completed them, and your thoughts about what you have read so far. Discuss your reading with your counselor. Using your log as a reference, explain why you chose each book and tell whether you enjoyed it and what it meant to you.
2. Read about the world around you from any two sources—books, magazines, newspapers, the Internet (with your parent’s permission), field manuals, etc. Topics may include sports, environmental problems, politics, social issues, current events, nature, religion, etc. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.

3. Do ONE of the following:
  - a. From a catalog of your choice, fill out an order form for merchandise as if you intended to place an order. Share the completed form with your counselor and discuss it.
  - b. With your parent's permission, locate at least five web-sites that are helpful for your Scouting or other activities. Write the Internet addresses of these sites in your log. Talk with your counselor or a librarian about safety rules for using the Internet.
4. With your counselor's and your parent's permission, choose ONE of the following activities and devote at least four hours of service to that activity. Discuss your participation with your counselor.
  - a. Read to a sick, blind, or homebound person in a hospital or in an extended-care facility.
  - b. Perform volunteer work at your school library or a public library.
  - c. Read stories to younger children, in a group or individually.



# Reading Resources

## Scouting Literature

*Boy Scout Handbook; Fieldbook; Stories for Around the Campfire; More Stories for Around the Campfire; The Gospel of the Redman; Learn to Fly-Fish in 24 Hours*

Visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website at <http://www.scoutstuff.org> for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

## Book Lists

Book lists or reading lists are put together every year by readers, librarians, and others who know books. Your school or public library will have lists to get you started. Many lists are published on the Web; the Internet address of some are given here. Also ask your librarian or teacher for a list of books that have won (or are competing for) your state's awards for children's and young adult books.

### **American Library Association: Best Books for Young Adults**

Website: <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/bbya>

### **Newbery Medal Winners and Honor Books**

Website: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal>

### **Education World: Summer Reading Lists**

Website: [http://www.educationworld.com/summer\\_reading](http://www.educationworld.com/summer_reading)

### **International Literacy Association Reading Lists**

Website: <http://www.literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/reading-lists>

### **National Book Awards for Young People's Literature**

Website: [http://www.nationalbook.org/nbawinners\\_category.html#yp](http://www.nationalbook.org/nbawinners_category.html#yp)

### **TeachersFirst.com: 100 Best Books**

Website: <http://www.teachersfirst.com/100books.cfm>

### **Teenreads.com**

Website: <http://www.teenreads.com>

### **Young Adult Books Central**

<http://www.yabookscentral.com/>

## Books Online

Many classic books are available online for no charge. Several websites have free e-books (electronic books) that you can read on a computer or print out to read later. The websites listed here offer hundreds of e-books.

### The Online Books Page

Website: <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books>

### Project Gutenberg

Website: <http://www.gutenberg.org>

## Magazines

Readers your age can choose from many magazines published especially for you. Some of these magazines also publish stories and articles written by young people. Check your school or public library for these and other magazines.

### *Boys' Life*

P.O. Box 152401  
Irving, TX 75015-2401  
Toll-free telephone: 866-584-6589  
Website: <http://www.boyslife.org>

***Cicada*** (ages 15 and up)

***Cricket*** (ages 9 to 14)  
13625A Dulles Technology Drive  
Herndon, VA 20171  
Telephone: 703-885-3400  
Website: <http://shop.cricketmedia.com/>

### ***Kids Discover***

149 Fifth Ave., Floor 10  
New York, NY 10010-6832  
Telephone: 212-677-4457  
Website: <http://www.kidsdiscover.com>

### ***National Geographic Kids***

1145 17th St. NW  
Washington, DC 20036-4688  
Toll-free telephone: 800-647-5463  
Website:  
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids>

### ***Skipping Stones***

P.O. Box 3939  
Eugene, OR 97403  
Telephone: 541-342-4956  
Website: <http://www.skippingstones.org>

### ***Sports Illustrated Kids***

Toll-free telephone: 877-747-1046  
Website: <http://www.sikids.com>

### ***Stone Soup: The Magazine by Young Writers and Artists***

P.O. Box 83  
Santa Cruz, CA 95063  
Toll-free telephone: 800-447-4569  
Website: <http://www.stonesoup.com>

## Newspapers

Ask your counselor or a librarian to help you find newspaper articles on subjects that interest you. Listed here is a website that contains online newspaper indexes. Your librarian can show you how to search for articles using this or other indexes.

### **Refdesk.com**

Website: <http://www.refdesk.com/paper.html>

## Reference Books

Check the reference section of your school or public library for these and many other useful reference books.

*Barron's Profiles of American Colleges.* Barron's Educational Series, annual.

*Books in Print.* Bowker, annual.

*Contemporary Authors.* Gale, annual.

*Current Biography.* H.W. Wilson, annual.

*Guinness World Records.* Bantam Books, annual.

*Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature.* H.W. Wilson, annual.

*Subject Guide to Books in Print.* Bowker, annual.

*Subject Guide to Children's Books in Print.* Bowker, annual.

## Organizations and Websites

Ask your counselor, parent, or librarian to recommend Web-related guides, directories, and search engines that are good for Internet users your age.

### Bookshare

Website: <http://www.bookshare.org>

### Internet Search Engines for Kids

Website: <http://www.ivyjoy.com/rayne/kidssearch.html>

### Kids and Teens: Directories

Website: [http://dmoz.org/Kids\\_and\\_Teens/Directories](http://dmoz.org/Kids_and_Teens/Directories)

## Literacy Programs

Hundreds of organizations promote literacy. Here are a few of the major programs. Through them you may find local opportunities.

### America's Literacy Directory

Website: <http://www.literacydirectory.org>

### American Foundation for the Blind

2 Penn Plaza, Suite 1102

New York, NY 10121

Toll-free telephone: 800-232-5463

Website: <http://www.afb.org>

### The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy

516 N. Adams St.

Tallahassee, FL 32301

Telephone: 850-562-5300

Website: <http://www.barbarabush.org>

Bookshare has signed a memorandum of mutual support with the Boy Scouts of America that emphasizes an ongoing relationship to provide Scouts and their leaders access to an electronic library of key Scouting publications. Individuals with disabilities can have resources like the *Boy Scout Handbook* and dozens of merit badge pamphlets at their fingertips—on their PCs, smartphones, and e-readers via audiobooks, or can hear books being read as words are highlighted on a screen. These resources can even be accessed using a Braille “reader”—a display that can be hooked up to a computer to generate a Braille translation.

For more information about Bookshare and its agreement with the BSA, go to <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2011/09/28/bookshare-bsa-open-a-new-chapter>.

**Read Across America**

National Education Association  
1201 16th St., NW  
Washington, DC 20036-3290  
Telephone: 202-833-4000  
Website:  
<http://www.nea.org/grants/886.htm>

**Reading Is Fundamental Inc.**

1730 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20036  
Toll-free telephone: 877-743-7323  
Website: <http://www.rif.org>

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